

# SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES

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**“Military families lead our country with loyalty, honor, commitment and perserverance.”**

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Our National Guard protects and helps us in difficult times, during floods and fires and other catastrophic disasters. The Guard represents Washington and the U.S. proudly while serving in other states and on foreign shores. With thanks for all that they do, Governor Gregoire honors the service and sacrifice of our military personnel and veterans as well as their families.

## MAKING CHANGES FAMILIES CAN COUNT ON

## Governor Gregoire's Budget for Supporting Military Families:

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**Honors service and sacrifice.** Constructs a new Eastern Washington Veterans Cemetery in Spokane County so that every year 500 veterans may be buried near their families and communities and honored for their service and sacrifice. *\$206,000 GF-State, \$7.8 million Capital*

**Welcomes veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.** Expands support for veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan with increased outreach and counseling for post traumatic stress. Continues to support community-based veteran networks to help returning veterans readjust to their communities. *\$700,000 GF-State*

**Helps schools serve military kids.** Creates the Operation Military Kids partnership to develop and provide information to teachers and schools about the impact on families of post traumatic stress and war trauma. Helps educators serve the nearly 8,000 school-age children whose parents are currently deployed or returning from active duty. *\$50,000 GF-State*

**Supports service by state employees.** Creates a Uniformed Services Shared Leave Pool for state employees. The many state employees who serve in our Guard and Reserves take a pay cut when they get called up to serve our country, and also risk losing their health insurance for their spouses and children. With this shared leave pool, state employees will be able to donate their leave to help their colleagues who are defending our country. *\$150,000 GF-State*

**Remembers our history.** Helps remodel the Nisei Veterans Committee Memorial Hall to honor Japanese-American soldiers who served in World War II and other wars and conflicts. *\$250,000 Capital*

**Helps homeless veterans.** Helps homeless veterans move toward independent living with a transitional housing program. Up to 40 veterans can be served at one time with assessment, treatment, education and job search activities to help them become self-sufficient and reengage in their communities. *\$612,000 GF-State, \$711,000 federal funds*